

# Lifetime of Love FAQs



Lifetime of Love is our promise to look after your animal after you pass away, and rehome them with a loving new family who are suited to their needs.

To register your animal(s) onto Lifetime of Love, we ask that you complete a form about your animal including; age, breed, neuter status, health history and behaviour.

You can do this over the phone by calling 01825 840747 or online by visiting <https://www.raystede.org/lifetime-of-love/>

If you are thinking about putting a plan in place, we understand that you're likely to have a few questions about the Lifetime of Love service. Here are the answers to some of the most common questions we get asked.

## **What animals qualify for the service?**

The service is generally for animals that Raystede rehomes frequently, so cats and dogs and small animals.

Currently we accept cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, degus, rats, chinchillas, mice and hens (not cockerels).

Applications to the scheme are considered on a case-by-case basis.

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## Can you take all breeds of dogs?

Unfortunately, Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (DDA) means that we cannot rehome any of the five banned breeds – American XL Bully, Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, or Fila Brasileiro.

So, dogs cannot be included in the scheme if listed under the DDA as dangerous or a banned breed.

## What if I have more than one animal?

We can take up to four 4 animals from one home. However, the capacity we must take multiple animals depends on their species and their individual needs.

For dogs, the number we can take may depend on the individual animal and we will take breed, size and behaviour into consideration. If we feel like we do not have the capacity for your dog/s then we will be happy to signpost you to other organisations we think may be able to help.

For cats, we can take up to 4 but it may depend on their relationship with one another. as our cattery only has space for 2 cats per kennel.

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## How will you know that my animal needs to come to Raystede?

In the event of your death, the Executor of your Will, family member or friend, will need to contact Raystede to let us know that your animal needs to be rehomed.

To ensure this happens we strongly advise that, as well as including instructions in your Will (suggested wording included in the FAQs), you tell the relevant people of your wish for your animals to be taken to Raystede. Please also make sure that your Will and any other relevant paperwork is up to date and easy to access.

If you can appoint a temporary guardian for your animal who knows your wishes and would be happy to care for your animal whilst arrangements are made, this will ensure a smooth transition for your animal to Raystede.

## Why doesn't the scheme include other animals or birds that live at Raystede?

Lifetime of Love is essentially a way to ensure your animal is rehomed in a loving environment after your death. Unfortunately, we cannot make an open-ended, long-term promise to take in aviary birds, tortoises, terrapins, goats, sheep, alpacas and equine animals (inc. horses, ponies) to be cared for by Raystede for the rest of their lives.

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We would do our best to signpost you to other organisations that might be able to help if your animal is not one that normally qualifies for our service.

## **What if my animal has a medical condition, behavioural problems or is simply elderly?**

Every animal that comes to Raystede is treated with compassion and dignity and is assessed by our veterinary team and behavioural assessors. If your animal has a medical condition that can be managed and our veterinary team are happy that they still have a good quality of life, then they can be rehomed.

Occasionally, our veterinary team may determine that an animal's medical condition cannot be treated or managed and is having a negative effect on their wellbeing. In these cases, it may be decided that the kindest action is to put that animal to sleep.

If an animal has behavioural problems, such as aggression with other dogs, we assess whether the problem can be resolved with time, training and care.

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If the problems persist and we cannot be confident of rehoming them safely and responsibly, Raystede may take the sad but necessary decision to put the animal to sleep. We care deeply for all the animals we look after, and such decisions are never taken without serious thought.

We welcome animals of all ages and people do come to us looking to rehome one of our more senior residents. We know these animals still have much life and love to give so we would work hard to find your animal the perfect home to enjoy their retirement years.

## **Does my animal need to be microchipped?**

As well as being a legal requirement for all dogs and cats in England, a microchip will help identify your dog, cat or rabbit should they need to come to Raystede, but it is not a requirement of our service.

## **Would Raystede ever send my animal somewhere else to be rehomed?**

We rehome most animals from our site, however we do have a network of other organisations that we work closely with just in case help is needed to give an animal the best possible chance of finding their perfect home. We would only take this step if we truly believed it was the best thing for the welfare of your animal.

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## What if I adopted my animal from another charity?

Most organisations have a contractual agreement that if you need to depart with your animal for any reason, you must get in contact with them first to arrange/discuss any change of ownership. In most cases, the organisation will agree take your animal back from you.

If you adopted your animal from another charity, it is essential that you look back on the adoption agreement you signed with them or get in contact with them first to comply with their contract and arrange subsequent ownership. They may also have their own service similar to Lifetime of Love.

## What if my animal is from abroad?

To ensure the safety of the animals in our care, and to prevent zoonotic diseases, we must see proof of vaccinations and blood tests that your animals should have been given before entering the UK (e.g. brucellosis and leptospirosis blood tests and rabies vaccinations for dogs).

We must also see a valid passport, so we understand that your animal has travelled safely and legally to the UK.

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## What if I get another animal?

If you already have an animal registered onto the service but you adopt or buy a new animal you wish to register, you'll need to submit an application form to register them onto the service in the same way.

Please contact us to let us know and we can either fill this out for you over the phone or you can do this via our website <https://www.raystede.org/lifetime-of-love/>.

## Will you take my animal if I am hospitalised or in an emergency?

Lifetime of Love is essentially a way to ensure your animal is rehomed in a loving environment after your death so it doesn't cover a change in circumstance which means you cannot look after your animal during your lifetime. However, please contact our Rehoming Team on 01825 880468 if you need a temporary or permanent new home for your animal as we may be able to help under one of the other services that Raystede offers.

Break Away is the animal fostering service run by Raystede, focussing on helping people who are fleeing domestic abuse or facing short-term hospitalisation and can't take their animals with them. Please visit our website for more information: <https://www.raystede.org/adopt/break-away/>.

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## How much will it cost?

The service is free of charge.

We are grateful that many of our supporters who sign up to the service have chosen to leave a gift in their Will to Raystede as a thank you for promising to take care of their treasured animal and to make sure we're here for all the abandoned, unwanted and surrendered animals that will need us in the future.

## What wording do you recommend for my Will?

If you would like to include your animal(s) in the Lifetime of Love service we suggest that you ask your solicitor to use the following wording:

*“In the event that any animal animal of mine survives me and I have made no other provisions for its care, I direct my Executors to notify Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare of The Broyle, Ringmer, East Sussex, BN8 5AJ (registered charity number 237696) as soon as practicable after my death and to request Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare both relieve them of responsibility for the animal and to endeavour to place it in a suitable home as soon as practicable; Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare having absolute discretion to deal with the welfare of the animal as it considers fit and I direct also that (Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare having accepted such a request) the animal shall not form part of my residuary estate.”*